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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Masanobu NISHIMINE et al. Conf.: 9766

Appl. No.: 10/000,340 Group: 1754

Filed: December 4, 2001 Examiner: N. NGUYEN

For: PARTICULATE SILICA AND ITS PREPARATION

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 9, 2004

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 9, 2003, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

This amendment includes:

Amendments to the Claims; and

Remarks.